Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00 SY-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 FBIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 /063 W

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CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 12246

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PFOR, PA, CI

SUBJ: RICARDO GAMILA VERGARA'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

REF: A) ASUNCION 5318 B) SANTIAGO 12075 C) ASUNCION 5277 D) STATE 312026

- 1. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN VERIFYING ACCOUNT OF RICARDO IGNACIO GOMILA VERGARA (REFS A, B AND C).
- 2. A) WITH REGARD TO GOMILA'S STATEMENTS THAT "UNION PARA LA LIBERACION NACIONAL" DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS TITLED "CARTA A CHILE" OR "CARTA A LA CIUDADANIA," EMBASSY HAS NOT PICKED UP SUCH DOCUMENTS.
- B) WE HAVE CHECKED WITH LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN SANTIAGO AND FIND IT HAS NO RECORD OF THE DETENTION OF "JUAN ITURRA"; OTHER CHECKS ALSO NEGATIVE.
- C) WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO IDENTIFY SANTANDER ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION GOMILA HAS PROVIDED.
- D) WE HAVE CHECKED WITH DEA'S LOCAL OFFICE, OUR HEADLINE LOG AND CLIPPING FILES AND FIND NO REPORTS OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFRONTATION AS REPORTED BY GOMILA ANY TIME BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER. SANTIAGO 7979 REPORTS A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED ENCOUNTER WHICH THE GOC OPENLY ATTRIBUTED TO EXTREMISTS.

E) OUR CHECKS WITH THE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

REVELS THAT NO ONE BY THE NAME NAULIN ROJAS (INCLUDING LIKELY VARIATIONS) WAS DETAINED AFTER THE 1973 COUP.

- F) THERE AR MANY LOUIS GONZALEZES LISTED AS DETAINED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION'S FILES, BUT MANY ARE FROM OUTSIDE SANTIAGO OR ARE THE WRONG AGE. ONE LUIS GONZALEZ DISAPPEARED ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1973, AND MAY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.
- G) THE SANTIAGO PEACE CORPS OFFICE MAINTAINS EMPLOYMENT RECORDS BACK TO 1968. IT HAS NO RECORD OF EMPLOYING ANYONE NAMED TIRADO.
- 3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY'S INABILITY TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION PUT FORWARD BY GOMILA SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT GOMILA IS DISSEMBLING. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT GOMILA'S COLLABORATORS USED FALSE NAMES OR GAVE MISLEADING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR BACKGROUNDS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM SECRUTIY FORCES. THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NOT LOCATED ANY OF THE FLIERS REPORTEDLY PRODUCED BY THE GROUP IS ALSO UNDERSTANDABLE. AND A CONFRONTATION AS DESCRIBED BY GOMILA COULD HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT COMING TO OUR ATTENTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY URGES CAUTION IN ACCEPTING GOMILA'S ACCOUNTS AT FACE VALUE.
- 4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AND REFS A AND B TO GENEVA FOR ITS BACKGROUND. POPPER

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